

Appl. No.: 10/823,310
Reply to Office Action of: September 20, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 8 stand rejected and claims 2-6, 7, and 8 are objected to. The following remarks are addressed to the Office Action dated September 20, 2004.

Claim Objection

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to for informalities. Claim 7 has been amended to replace the term "base portions" with "fixing portions", which terms are defines as interchangeable at page 8, line 1 of the specification. Claim 8 has been amended to remove the reference numeral.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Whyne, et al. (US 2003/0092304A1).

Claims 1, 7, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shirai, et al. (US 2004/0058580A1).

Claim 1 is canceled.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 2, and Applicants respectfully contend that they are now be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the statement of allowability of claims 2-6. Claims 2, 5, and 6 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

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claim (1) and any intervening claims (none). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that they are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons and in view of the forgoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, allowance of claims 2-8 and issuance of Letters Patent for the subject invention. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 50-1581.

Respectfully submitted,



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